

*The Royal School for the Blind,
Liverpool*

178th Annual Report

1968-69

SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

Administrative Office :

549 Smithdown Road, Liverpool, 15

Telephone: SEFton Park 4782

With the Superintendent's Compliments

1968-69

178th ANNUAL REPORT

THE ROYAL SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND, LIVERPOOL

Recognised by the Department of Education and Science
Registered in accordance with the National Assistance Act, 1948
and the Charities Act, 1960

Patron: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

Administrative Office:

549 Smithdown Road, Liverpool L15 5AF

Telephone: 051-733 4782



WAVERTREE SCHOOL

THE ROYAL SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND, LIVERPOOL

OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 1969/70

President:

J. C. SMYTH, Esq.

Vice-Presidents:

J. R. GIBBONS, Esq.

Mrs. A. P. WISE

Hon. Treasurer: A. A. HAWKINS, Esq.

Committee:

J. F. ALLAN, Esq.

A. S. ECCLES, Esq.

Mrs. S. HALL

J. M. ASHCROFT, Esq.

J. R. GIBBONS, Esq.

J. C. SMYTH, Esq.

Mrs. V. F. CROSTHWAITE

A. A. HAWKINS, Esq.

Prof. N. R. TEMPEST

Mrs. A. P. WISE

A. J. WANNOP, Esq

Secretary and Bursar:

T. C. MILBURN

Auditors:

Messrs. CHALMERS, IMPEY & CO., Chartered Accountants

Bankers:

MIDLAND BANK, Rodney Street, Liverpool, L1 2TP

Hon. Solicitors:

Messrs. ALSOP STEVENS BATESONS & CO.

Hon. Consulting Insurance Brokers:

Messrs. GRIFFITHS & ARMOUR

Architect and Surveyor:

Mr. F. O. LAWRENCE, B.Arch., F.R.I.B.A.



THE MAIN ENTRANCE

Wavertree School for Blind Children
Church Road, Liverpool L15 6TQ

Telephone: 051-733 1012

Headmaster:

Mr. H. S. D. MARKS

Matron and Housekeeper:

Miss R. A. MCGREGOR

Hon. Physician and Surgeon:

Dr. G. S. ROBERTS

Hon. Ophthalmic Surgeon:

Mr. D. M. J. BURNS, F.R.C.S

Hon. Dental Surgeon:

Mr. I. FURNESS, L.D.S.

Hon. Chaplain:

Rev. K. M. FORREST, M.A.

Teaching Staff:

Miss D. E. WARES (Deputy Head)

Mr. B. HECHLE (Senior Master)

Mr. R. L. DE LACRUZ

Mrs. L. JONES

Miss C. WILKINSON

Miss E. McERLANE

Miss C. A. REID

Miss B. WILLIAMS

Music Department:

Miss FLORA CANN, L.R.A.M., Mr J. R. TAYLOR, L.R.A.M

Office:

Mrs. M. BUNNAGAR, Mrs. D. WILLIAMS

The Royal School for the Blind, Liverpool

This Institution is the oldest School for the Blind in the British Commonwealth and (that of Paris excepted) the oldest in the world. It was instituted in 1791 and incorporated by Act of Parliament in 1829 and for the interest of friends and subscribers a short history is set out in the Appendix to this report.

The Institution until 1957 administered two schools, a workshop and a sales shop.

Technical School

The above School, situated in Hardman Street, Liverpool 1, since 1851 had provided training for blind adolescents and the Workshop department (employment for blind persons) officially closed on the 31st July, 1957. The closure was due to a decline in the number of blind adolescents available for technical training and had affected not only the Hardman Street School but a number of other Technical Schools for the Blind in various parts of the country.

Wavertree School for Blind Children

Its object is to provide Primary School training for boys and girls between the ages of 5 and 12 years.

Since 1958 a development scheme has been in progress at Wavertree School which, on completion, will provide additional accommodation for teaching and residential purposes. Modernisation of the main building is also to be included in the general building work.

Subscriptions and Donations are received by A. A. Hawkins, Esq., Treasurer, Midland Bank Ltd., Rodney Street, the Secretary of the School, and the Liverpool Council of Social Service, 14 Castle Street, Liverpool.

Subscription and Bequest Forms are enclosed in this report.

Annual Report for the Year 1968-69

Reports and Accounts

The Committee of Management have pleasure in presenting their 178th Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 1969.

Wavertree School

The big contribution during the past year was the emphasis placed on mobility and training in independence of the children.

Readers of last year's report of the School will be conscious of our concern of the basic needs in mobility and independence of the children entrusted to us. We are continually reassessing and evaluating our attitude to and our awareness of these. They are skills that used to be taken for granted, but children with a visual handicap need to be educated in them with as much expertise as that required to teach reading and writing. It was, therefore, with pleasure that we co-operated with St. Vincent's School for the Blind, West Derby, Liverpool, in securing the services of Mr. R. La Duke, a Peripatologist from the University of West Michigan, U.S.A.

A programme of training was initiated and Mr. La Duke had trained two members of the Staff — Miss D. E. Wares, the Deputy Head, and Miss B. Williams — as qualified mobility instructors, by the end of his stay in Liverpool. The training was intense and skilful, and required a lot mentally and physically, from the trainees. During the practice sessions, in indoor and outdoor situations the trainees were blindfolded and, regardless of weather conditions, the training continued. As might be expected, such intense specialised work created quite a lot of local interest, and during the course, Miss B. Williams featured in a short B.B.C. Television Documentary on the training involved in the use of the "long cane". She also participated in several interviews on the radio on mobility for the visually handicapped and the technique of the long cane. Other members of the staff participated in an intensive four day course on Mobility. The enthusiasm of Mr. La Duke, Miss Wares and Miss Williams has certainly given a wonderful impetus to the mobility and independence training of the children in the School.

The appreciation of the skills of orientation and mobility and their place in the full education of the children is a landmark in the life of the School and its development is something to watch with justifiable pride in the coming years.

Language Development

The Language Laboratory continues to be used to the maximum. It is now quite an accepted medium of language training and its use, with the less able children, continues to be explored. The Secondary Schools, Henshaws School, Royal Normal College, Chorleywood College and Worcester College, to which our children are transferred report on the high standard and precision in language that our children possess, which



MOBILITY TRAINING

provide an enthusiasm and an invaluable platform for them to develop further.

Old Pupils' Association — The Wavertarians

The Old Pupils' Association continues to flourish and plays an important part in enabling past pupils to keep in contact with each other and to continue their interest in the School. They, the Wavertarians, are hoping to extend their activities still further and to make the younger group of past pupils play an integral part in the Association.

Open Days

Highlights in the School Year are the Open Days near the end of term when parents, brothers, sisters, and relatives of the children visit the School and see the children in the class-room situation. Parents and friends are welcomed at all times, but these days are particularly beneficial, as all staff, educational and welfare, make themselves available to discuss the progress of the children. Not only the parents of the children already in the School benefit from these Open Days but also the parents of children with a visual handicap who will be coming to the school in the future. They make them aware that their problems are not unique, and reduce their feeling of isolation, as well as giving them the opportunity to discuss their worries and to give them some constructive help.

Northern Braille Reading Competition

In the Annual Competition of the National Library for the Blind, the School participated and the results were pleasing. Tony Stockman and Linda Welding were placed second and third in the under nine age group. Elaine Kelly was first in the under twelve years age group.

Music

Groups of children from the School took part in Music Festivals in Bromborough and Blackburn and did quite well, obtaining four Merit Certificates, two second places, third place in the trio event, as well as being well placed in other events.

Cubs and Brownie Packs

The Cubs and Brownies continue to flourish and extend their range of activities.

The Cubs have had a very interesting year. Apart from their normal programme of weekly meetings, annual camp at Tawd Vale, training in skills and acquiring badges of proficiency, they have taken part in garden fetes, various Christmas activities with other packs, Church parades and a Sponsored Walk.

Visit of Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Liverpool

A break with tradition occurred during the year when the Annual Summer visit of the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Liverpool did not take place, owing to a very full programme of events being already planned for them. However, it was with pleasure that we welcomed them



CHILDREN USING THE "LONG CANE TECHNIQUE"

to take part in our Christmas Activities. Their evident enjoyment and participation in this occasion gave us a lot of pleasure.

Widening of experience

In previous years the education of the children used to be a very School orientated process, but the activities of this past year make one aware how untrue this assumption would be now. In the School programme, during the year the children have made use of all local features from nearby parks, the museum, the Airport, to the sands at Formby Point. Further afield, groups have explored the caves at Ingleborough Hill, Roman remains at Chester, Youth Hostelling in North Wales, and scrambling in Snowdonia.

The normal pattern of School life — outings to Southport, visits by University, Training College and Welfare students, etc., continued throughout the year.

Pupil Transfers

At the beginning of the year there were seventy four children on the register. Eleven children were transferred to other schools. Nine children were admitted to the School and the number of children at the end of the year was seventy two.

The children transferred to the Secondary Schools were as follows:-

Nicholas Clarke
Gary Evans
Yvonne Ferguson
John Harrison
Lillian Roughley
Pauline Moore
Alan Davies

Transferred to
Henshaws School for
the Blind, Manchester

Derek Hornby—transferred to St. Vincent's School for the Blind.
Geoffrey Jones—School in Cheshire.

Michael Kushner was successful in being accepted for the Royal Normal College, Shrewsbury.

Elaine Kelly was successful in passing the entrance examination for Chorleywood College for Girls, London.

Wavertree School — Development

During the year under review it had been thought that some further confirmation might have been received from the Department of Education and Science relating to the development of the adjacent "Abbeyholme" site. However, it is hoped that ultimate approval to extending the school on to this site will be given in due course. Completion of the levelling and fencing of the site has been carried out.

The classroom extension adjacent to the South Wing of the School is due for consideration for inclusion in the 1971/72 Educational Capital Programme. The Board of Management have given approval to the provision of two temporary classrooms, which will give valuable additional



RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES (I)

teaching space and will be available for other use when the classroom block is ultimately completed.

The purchase of 34 Wavertree Green as a dormitory house for single staff was completed during the year. The Board have supported very strongly the improvements which have taken place in residential accommodation in the past few years and are constantly considering ways and means of further improvement. In the case of Wavertree Green it was possible for the original furnishings to be purchased and this ensured the minimum of preparation prior to occupation.

Further improvement works undertaken included a small extension to the Headmaster's House and the provision of a cold room for food storage.

During the year efforts were made to acquire properties near the school, but the enquiries have not yet met with success.

Committee of Management

Due to her removal from the area, Mrs. I. Bennett resigned from the Board in May, 1968. Mrs. S. Hall was appointed in October, 1968, to fill the vacancy.

Medical Officer

The death of Dr. Gerald Bradford occurred during 1968. He had been appointed in 1967, but prior to this had given considerable service by representing the previous Medical Officer on numerous occasions. He will be remembered for his sympathetic approach to the problems of blindness.

He was succeeded as Medical Officer by Dr. Geoffrey S. Roberts, who took up his appointment in September, 1968.

Thanks are due to Dr. Bradford's assistants who ensured that the children received medical treatment and care pending Dr. Roberts taking up his appointment.

Mr. Edward Keates—Superintendent

In November, 1968, Mr. Keates informed the Committee of Management of his retirement to take place on 31st July, 1969. At this time his long service to the school will have spanned a period of nearly 25 years, during which he has seen and pioneered many changes in the pattern of blind education and welfare. His original appointment took place when both schools, The Training Centre, Hardman Street and Wavertree School, Church Road North, were evacuated to North Wales and the re-establishment of the schools in Liverpool was an early responsibility. The post-war period provided some changes in the structure of blind education and Wavertree became a Primary School in 1946. The Training Department, in which he took a particular interest, closed in 1957, and after this he was responsible for a varied scheme of improvements at Wavertree School which provided classrooms, a swimming pool and a language laboratory.

His sincerity and dedication to the school and to the work for the



RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES (2)

blind has been appreciated, and it is hoped that in retirement he will continue to support their causes as ably as he has done in the past.

Teaching Staff

Miss P. Humphreys retired during the year and the place she established for herself in the School and in the world of the visually handicapped will be hard to fill. Her influence on children and staff was invaluable and generously given.

Miss Christine Wilkinson, who had been teaching in Bolton, joined the staff as an assistant teacher early in the year. Miss Wilkinson was a pupil of the School before going to Chorleywood College and Salisbury Training College.

Other Staffs

House Staff

Mrs. E. Kidd commenced November, 1968.

Miss J. C. Jones left March, 1969.

Miss E. H. Hutchinson left March, 1969.

Office Staff

Miss M. Brandrick left March, 1969.

Mrs. D. Williams commenced March, 1969.

Finance

Income from investments rose by £412 during the financial year. Legacies received amounted to £2,844 and the income from the Royal National Institute for the Blind was marginally higher at £1,178. A slightly reduced figure for donations and subscriptions amounted to £474. The transfer of income to the General Fund, a sum of £9,724, is very satisfactory.

Appreciation and Thanks

The Committee of Management desire to thank all those who have once again supported the finances of the School. This assistance has been very generous indeed. Considerable help has been given in many ways: by special efforts, subscriptions and donations. A number of our friends have also arranged outings for the pupils and many have given in addition, sweets and fruit. The continuance of the help and interest of our many friends is very encouraging.

The Committee of Management also thank all the members of the Staff for their efficient and loyal services throughout the year.

Annual Accounts

The Income and Expenditure Account, the Charity Account and Balance Sheet for the year 1968/69 are herewith submitted.

THE ROYAL SCHOOL FOR BALANCE SHEET AS

1968		1969	
£	LIABILITIES	£	£
	GENERAL FUND		
	Surplus Account		
	Balance at 1st April, 1968	103,538	
	Add transfers from general charity fund account ..	9,724	
	Surplus on revaluation of investments ..	—	
		<u>113,282</u>	
	Deduct alterations to premises and additional fittings	5,445	
103,538			107,817
5,496	Creditors and Provisions		<u>5,358</u>
			113,175
	ENDOWMENT FUNDS		
	The Cort Fund	1,483	
	Roger Lyon Jones Trust Fund	732	
	Sir Henry Lucy Fund	732	
	David Malcolmson Fund	732	
	Edward Wadsworth Fund	645	
4,304		<u>4,304</u>	
	OLD PUPILS' FUND		
	Surplus Account		
	Balance at 1st April, 1968	2,687	
	Add excess of income over expenditure during year ..	22	
		<u>2,709</u>	
	Deduct loss on revaluation of investments during year	—	
2,687			<u>2,709</u>
<u>£118,025</u>			<u>£120,188</u>

REPORT OF THE TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE ROYAL SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND, LIVERPOOL

In our opinion the accounts and notes set out on pages 16 to 21 give a true and fair view of the surplus for the year ended on that date.

LIVERPOOL,
29th September, 1969

THE BLIND, LIVERPOOL

AT 31st MARCH, 1969

1968		ASSETS	1969	
£			£	£
		GENERAL FUND ASSETS (note 1)		
87,570	Investments (note 2)			87,570
15,325	Debtors			15,465
6,139	Cash and Bank Balances			10,140
				<hr/>
				113,175
		ENDOWMENT FUND ASSETS		
3,970	Investments (note 2)		3,970	
334	Debtor		334	
			<hr/>	4,304
		OLD PUPILS' FUND ASSETS		
2,520	Investments (note 2)		2,520	
19	Debtor		38	
148	Bank Balance		151	
			<hr/>	2,709

£116,025

£120,188

THE AUDITORS

For view of the state of affairs at 31st March, 1969, of The Royal School for the Blind, Liverpool

CHALMERS, IMPEY & CO.,
Chartered Accountants

THE ROYAL SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND, LIVERPOOL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. FIXED ASSETS

The balance sheet does not include the following assets owned by the school all of which have been written off against the general fund in past years:
Land and buildings at Smithdown Road, Menlove Avenue and Wavertree.
Machinery, furniture and equipment.
The school owns a minibus which was a gift.

2. INVESTMENTS

GENERAL FUND

Market value
at 31st March, 1968

					£
£3,603	12	11	British Transport 3 % Guaranteed Stock 1978/88		2,041
£4,490	0	0	3½ % Conversion Stock		2,183
£8,000	0	0	3½ % Funding Stock 1999/2004		4,380
£5,000	0	0	5½ % Funding Stock 1982/84		4,238
£10,500	0	0	3 % Savings Bonds 1960/70		9,457
£182	14	7	3 % Savings Bonds 1965/75		138
£5,000	0	0	2½ % Treasury Stock 1975 or after		1,731
£1,600	0	0	6½ % Treasury Stock 1976		1,546
£400	0	0	3½ % War Stock		199
£1,000	0	0	Liverpool Corporation 3½ % irredeemable stock		463
£5,000	0	0	Swansea Corporation 5½ % redeemable stock 1976/78		4,300
£4,000	0	0	London County 6 % 1975/78		3,510
£4,356	15	0	Mersey Docks & Harbour Board 3½ % debenture stock 1970/80		2,788
83			British American Tobacco Co. Ltd. ordinary 10/- stock units		469
720			Royal Insurance Co. Ltd. 5/- stock units		1,953
3,500			Trust of Bank Shares		2,545
			The United Provinces Building Society		
400			£1 preference shares		400
250			£1 ordinary shares		250
840			Sun Alliance and London Insurance Ltd. £1 shares		2,929
12,685	units		The Equities Investment Fund for Charities		21,089
19,034	shares		The Charities Official Investment Fund		20,961
(Market value at 31st March, 1969 £90,631)					£87,570

ENDOWMENT FUNDS

£1,300	0	0	3½ % War Stock		645
2,000	units		The Equities Investment Fund for Charities		3,325
(Market value at 31st March, 1969 £4,656)					£3,970

OLD PUPILS' FUND

£1,448	18	3	British Transport 3 % Guaranteed Stock 1978/88		820
£1,164	0	0	Canadian Pacific Railway Co. Pers. 4 % Deb. Stock		599
£1,000	0	0	3 % Savings Bonds 1965/75		758
£104	5	2	3½ % War Stock		52
175	units		The Equities Investment Fund for Charities		291
(Market value at 31st March, 1969, £2,308)					£2,520

It is the committee's policy to revalue all investments from time to time. The last revaluation was made on 31st March, 1968.

3. LIVERPOOL LADIES ASSOCIATION FOR THE CARE AND TRAINING OF GIRLS.

Transactions relating to this charity, of which the committee have been appointed trustees, are not included in the accounts.

THE ROYAL SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND, LIVERPOOL GENERAL CHARITY FUND ACCOUNT for the year ended 31st MARCH, 1969

EXPENDITURE		INCOME	
1968	£	1968	£
10	Management expenses	49	34
429	Pension	489	440
74	Gifts to pupils	2,204	2,844
25	Gifts to ex employees		
	Transfers to general Fund—	1,129	1,178
	Legacies		
2,204		4,222	4,503
5,728	Surplus	204	212
		114	237
			4,952
			2
			912
			£10,362

OLD PUPILS' FUND ACCOUNT for the year ended 31st MARCH, 1969

EXPENDITURE		INCOME	
1968	£	1968	£
95	Grants	138	138
1	Expenses	6	6
	Subscription to Liverpool Workshop and Home		
2	Teaching Society for the Outdoor Blind		
46	Surplus transferred to Old Pupils' Fund		
			£144

THE ROYAL SCHOOL FOR EDUCATION ACCOUNT

1968		£
	Salaries and Wages—	
14,186	Teachers—Contributory Service	16,054
1,397	Non-contributory Service	1,395
4,398	Nurses, house parents, children's attendants	4,786
2,287	Housekeepers, cooks, kitchen staff and seamstress	2,485
6,811	Cleaners, stokers, porters, etc.	6,745
700	Gardeners	753
3,793	Administrative and clerical staff	4,166
820	Laundresses	806
1,535	National Insurance contributions	1,736
	Superannuation—	
1,192	Teachers	1,351
331	Teachers adjustment for 1966/67	—
614	Other Staff	701
1,554	Repairs and maintenance of building	1,772
341	Maintenance of grounds	544
3,553	Fuel, light, water and cleaning materials	3,753
1,611	Replacement and repairs to furniture and fittings	1,865
869	Rates	1,033
456	Text books	427
689	Apparatus and equipment for educational purposes	487
131	School stationery and materials	112
66	Drugs, medical requisites, etc.	104
5,899	Food	5,798
67	Staff clothing and uniform	80
169	Motor running expenses	271
554	Printing, stationery, advertising, postages, etc.	646
199	Telephones	291
233	Travelling expenses	243
601	Insurances	548
381	Medical Fees	421
212	Clothing and footwear for pupils	391
157	Audit and accountancy charges	300
78	Incidentals	39
	Provisions for items authorised during the year but not delivered—	
—	Braille typewriter	176
—	Pupils clothing	150
—	Abbeyholme repairs	217
—	Building repairs	291
59	Surplus for year transferred to general charity fund account	912

£55,943

£61,849

THE BLIND, LIVERPOOL

for the year ended 31st MARCH, 1969

1968		
£		£
371	Augmentation of blind employees wages	389
55,017	Fees from local Education Authorities	60,189
	Grants towards teachers superannuation payments—	
555	Year to 31st March, 1968	596
—	Year to 31st March, 1969	675

£55,943

£61,849



THE LORD MAYOR AND LADY MAYORESS VISIT WAVERTREE
[Photos by courtesy of the "Liverpool Weekly News"]

APPENDIX

A Brief History of The Royal School for the Blind, Liverpool (Established 1791)

This Institution, commonly called the Liverpool School for the Indigent Blind, is (that of Paris excepted) the oldest School for the Blind in the world, having been instituted in 1791 and incorporated by Act of Parliament in 1829.

All institutions owe their existence to one or more great and interesting personalities and they renew their lives through the inspiration of similar personalities. The School for the Indigent Blind in Liverpool was fortunate to have two such personalities. The first, Edward Rushton, the Founder in 1791, and just over a hundred years later, Miss Mary Hornby, to whom was largely due the opening of the Junior School in Church Road, Wavertree, in 1898.

Edward Rushton was born in Liverpool in 1756 and at the age of six entered the Liverpool Free Grammar School. His favourite reading was "Anson's Voyage Round the World," and at the age of eleven he determined to go to sea, and was bound apprentice to Watt and Joynson, Merchants, and made his first voyage in a West India Merchantman.

During a voyage to Dominica, contagious ophthalmia broke out amongst a number of negro slaves. Rushton contracted the disease by attending the victims when all others had refused help and assistance. The attack deprived him of the sight of his left eye and the right was covered with opacity of the cornea. Thus ended a promising sea-going career at the age of nineteen.

After leaving the sea he lived at home on an allowance of four shillings a week. Out of this meagre allowance, he paid threepence a week to a boy to read to him. In this way he became acquainted with the best in English literature, and struggling bravely against great difficulties, he maintained himself and family as a bookseller in Paradise Street. Later, he became the owner and editor of the Liverpool Herald. Due to his literary interests, he eventually became a member of the Liverpool Literary and Philosophical Society, and it was at one of their meetings in 1790 that he suggested the idea of setting up a benefit club for the indigent blind. His friend, J. Christie, a blind musician, suggested that the scheme should include the instruction of young blind persons. The Rev. Henry Dannett warmly advocated the undertaking, and in 1791 the first Blind Asylum was opened in two houses in Commutation Row. In the next few years, Blind Asylums and Schools sprang up in different parts of the country, as far apart as Edinburgh, London and Bristol.

At the Home in Commutation Row, the blind pupils were taught spinning, basket and hamper making, plaiting of sash lines, rug and mat making, and also music. In the last department, pupils qualified as organists and tuners of pianos and stringed instruments. Strict attention was also paid to moral conduct and religious education. The pupils

THE SKELETON



came from different parts of the country, and those who came from outside Liverpool were boarded out in specially selected homes. In 1800 a more commodious School was erected in Hunter Street, London Road, and on the 18th of September, 1806, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales visited the school, when he was graciously pleased to become the Patron of it and to present a donation of 100 guineas. The School is still under Royal Patronage, and so far as is known, has been since 1806.

In 1808 and the following years, the School was enlarged to give boarding accommodation, so that the pupils would be under the continuous care of the Superintendent and not subject to the moral dangers when separated from their families and friends in the midst of a large, populous town.

A Chapel was also erected for the spiritual welfare of the pupils and to be a centre of music in the town. Musical concerts given by the blind and the Choral Services at the Chapel were a great attraction in the town and enlarged the number of friends interested in the general welfare of the blind.

In 1829 a special Act of Parliament was passed, to regulate the affairs of the School and the Chapel. When Lime Street Station was opened, the Chapel was removed stone by stone to a new site in Hope Street and Hardman Street and a new School built in 1851 in healthier and more pleasant surroundings. This beneficial change was helped by the selling of the School and Churchyard and the granting of the new site by the Liverpool Corporation. The School continued its good work and the number of pupils increased. The Chapel became one of the popular town churches, celebrated for its musical Services and the preaching of its famous chaplains.

The second great personality in connection with the Liverpool School was Miss Mary Hornby. She was a wealthy lady, unknown, yet well known. Few knew her by sight, fewer still knew of the network of beneficiaries which her busy hands and brain were weaving. Miss Mary Louisa Hornby, the second of three daughters of the Rev. Thomas Hornby, one-time vicar of Walton Parish Church, the Mother Church of Liverpool, was born in 1837. She was the cousin of Hugh Frederick Hornby, a wealthy merchant in Liverpool. She was a great collector of books and prints, and gave £10,000 to build an Annexe to the Liverpool Library to house her collection.

Mary Hornby, though very rich, was bent in early days on a life of usefulness. Inspired by Florence Nightingale, she became a nurse and was in the terrible Franco-Prussian war of 1870. Her next experience was as the head of the Magdalen Ward at St. Thomas's Hospital, London. After this she returned to her native Liverpool and did District Nursing in her own parish of Walton, entirely at her own expense, and made regular visits to the Walton workhouse. What she saw there led her to start a Home for destitute and neglected children in Walton, where she herself lived. One day she found a little blind boy who, by his friendliness, appealed to her sympathy and she took him into her home. Out of that small beginning grew her profound interest in, and prodigious work for, the blind as a class, though it was but one of her many generous acts of philanthropy. She started a blind



THE SCHOOL (REAR VIEW)

family and was happy in securing the help of two sisters, the Misses Allen, one of whom, thanks to Miss Hornby, became the first Matron at the Wavertree School. In 1898 the School for the Indigent Blind opened the School for Children at Church Road, Wavertree, the money being raised by public subscription. Miss Hornby gave an anonymous gift of £10,000 towards the building of the School, and also gave a subscription of £30 under her own name to the public fund. It is interesting to note that Queen Victoria also gave a gift of £30. The blind children from Miss Hornby's Home were transferred to the Wavertree School, but the Home still continued to work for the blind. It became a busy hive of industry in preparing braille books for the blind and Miss Hornby founded the Braille Writers' Society. The Library at Wavertree was filled with costly Braille books, and the City Library had similar gifts and became the centre for blind literature until the Blind Library was opened in Manchester for the Northern Counties. The books were largely typed by blind people whom she paid for the work, and many copies were made with her own hands. For fourteen years this special work went on and thousands of volumes were sent, from Aberdeen to Cairo, in the interest of the blind of all nationalities and languages.

Miss Mary Hornby also organised musical concerts for workhouse inmates and engaged blind musicians from the workshops to give the items.

One of the latest schemes was the investment of a considerable amount of capital to provide a number of annuities for blind people. She was also interested in immigration and sent many children to Canada. She kept in touch with them and sent Christmas presents. About eighteen months before her death she was presented by the Lord Mayor of Liverpool with a Silver Casket, in recognition of her devoted work for the blind.

This remarkable woman of any age or any country died at the age of 76 on April 3rd, 1913, at Worthing, in Sussex.

The late Rev. T. W. M. Lund, the Chaplain of the Chapel for the Blind, described her in his Memorial Service as "the bent little figure, growing more bent with time, rendering it almost impossible in her later years to look into her face. It was a pity, because the kindness there, written so plainly in the tout ensemble of expression, was not only beautiful to see, but was the negation of the little nervous brusquerie of manner which some people could not understand, and of which she was only too conscious and deplored as part of her natural handicap. But those who knew her best loved her most, and that is the finest verdict you can pass on any life."

Owing to the difficulty in running a town church in these changing days and the changing habits of the people, the Chapel became a source of considerable loss to the School, and it was decided in 1927 to close it. The sanction of Parliament was obtained through a clause in an omnibus Act of Parliament, obtained by the City of Liverpool and the Chapel was finally closed on July 17th, 1928. The site of the Chapel was given for work in connection with the blind and the City Council kindly allowed the School to build an extension of the school on the site. This

extension was completed in 1931 at a cost of over £20,000, and was officially opened by the Hon. The Earl of Derby, K.G., on Monday, October 31st, 1932.

At the outbreak of the Second World War in September, 1939, both Schools were evacuated to Rhyl, the Junior School to the North Wales Blind School in Russell Road and Hardman Street School to a large house, "Northgate," in the same road, with a smaller house, "Penrhyn Lodge," nearby as an annexe. The Junior School returned to the Wavertree School in May, 1946 and the Training School to Hardman Street in November of the same year. Under the Education Act, 1944, both Schools took on a new lease of life. The Wavertree School was approved as the Primary School for the North-West Region for blind children from the age of 7 to 11. At the present time, pupils at Wavertree School are given a Primary School education prior to entering a Secondary School for Blind Children at the age of 11 plus.

At the Hardman Street School, which was recognised as the Training School for the Blind for the North-West Region, trainees entered at 16 years of age. Boys were instructed in the crafts of boot and shoe repairing, brush-making, mat-making and basketry, and girls in the crafts of round and flat machine-knitting and chair-caning. On completion of their training, trainees usually found employment in the Workshops for the Blind or as Home Workers. Eventually, on 31st July, 1957, the Hardman Street Technical School was closed down as there was no longer a call for such a training establishment.

With the closure and ultimate sale of the Hardman Street Technical School, it became necessary to find suitable accommodation for the office and administrative staff. Premises conveniently situated and reasonably near to the Wavertree School were eventually acquired in Smithdown Road, Liverpool, 15, and occupied as offices early in 1958.

In April, 1958, work commenced at Wavertree School on a building extension to provide new classrooms, dormitories and residential facilities in accordance with the general reorganisation at Wavertree proposed and undertaken by the Committee of Management and approved by the Ministry of Education. Each year since the commencement of the reorganisation and building scheme, additional new work has been in progress and among the many additions are the following: modernisation of the older part of the School premises, extensions to the School Hall and Gymnasium, Craftwork Rooms, Staff Dining Room and Garages, installation of a Language Laboratory, erection of Swimming Bath and the replanning of the existing School Laundry.

The number of pupils on the register has been maintained at around 70 and upwards over the last ten years. The staff employed consists of resident Teachers, Housemothers and Domestic Workers, along with adequate non-resident staff providing the services required in a Boarding School for Handicapped Children. It is considered that the Foundation and School is one of Liverpool's oldest charities.

On 8th July, 1966, a notice was received from the Home Office, Whitehall, S.W.1, giving the information that the Queen had been graciously pleased to command that the School for the Blind at Liverpool shall be known as The Royal School for the Blind, Liverpool.

THE ROYAL SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND, LIVERPOOL

Administrative Office:

549 Smithdown Road, Liverpool L15 5AF

I have pleasure in assisting the above School in the following manner —

Annual Subscription	£
Donation	£
	£

Enclosed please find value

Name

(Please state whether Mr., Mrs., Miss, &c.)

Address

Cheques should be made payable to "The Treasurer, The Royal School for the Blind, Liverpool," and crossed "Midland Bank Ltd."

Form of Bequest

The following Form of Bequest is recommended to those who may be desirous of assisting the School by way of Legacies.

I GIVE and bequeath to THE ROYAL SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND, LIVERPOOL, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE, 549

SMITHDOWN ROAD, LIVERPOOL L15 5AF, the sum of

free of duty, to be applied for the general purposes of the said School, the receipt of the Treasurer of the said School for the time being to be a good discharge of such legacy.

THE ROYAL SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND, LIVERPOOL.

Old Pupils' Fund or Aftercare

This Fund enables the Committee to keep in touch with all pupils who, after receiving a period of training, have become established in workshops or their own homes, and are endeavouring to earn a living at their respective trades, and who may from time to time, as occasion arises, need advice and financial help.

Information for Annual Subscribers

The Royal School for the Blind, Liverpool, being a Charity, is not liable to Income Tax, but generally all subscribers have to pay tax on the income out of which payment is made for subscriptions. The School is allowed under Income Tax Law to recover any tax paid by the Subscriber in relation to a subscription, but only if a seven-year covenant has been signed.

A copy of this form is overleaf for the use of subscribers, and if completed they can substantially increase the value of their contribution at no extra cost to themselves.

THE ROYAL SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND, LIVERPOOL

549 Smithdown Road, Liverpool L15 5AF

I,

(Name in full)

of

(Address)

hereby covenant with The Royal School for the Blind, Liverpool that for a period of seven years from the _____ day of _____

19____, or during my life, whichever period shall be shorter, I will pay annually to the said School such a sum as will after deduction of Income Tax leave in the hands of the School a net sum of £.. _____ (Figures)

(_____) such sum to be (Words) paid from my general fund of taxed income so that I shall receive no personal or private benefit in either of the said periods from the said sum or any part thereof.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this

_____ day of _____ 19____

(Words)

Signed sealed and delivered by the said

(Signature of Subscriber)

in the presence of

Signature

Address

Witness to
Signature of
Subscriber

Occupation

Note: The first subscription should not be paid before the date upon which this deed is signed.

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